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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #0020 0040043  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 040043Z JAN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0727  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5279  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 7675  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3974  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5897  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8944  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0915  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2056  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6983  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7647  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ

11. LEAD STORIES: Most Friday morning papers led with reports saying that crude oil prices soared to \$100 a barrel on Wednesday for the first time.

12. "Signs of Decline in U.S. Power and Prestige as Superpower Seen" The moderate-conservative Yomiuri editorialized (1/4): "A sense of insecurity is growing in the international community where globalization is penetrating. The biggest factor behind this fear is the decline in the U.S. position as a superpower based on its overwhelming power. Although Washington's inefficient handling of Iraq is one of the factors behind the shaken status of the U.S., attempts by China and Russia to expand their influence in the international arena with the aim of becoming other poles that can challenge the U.S. are additional elements... Despite changes in world politics and economy, there is no other nation but the U.S. that can play a pivotal role in bringing peace and stability to the world... The chaos in Iraq is a symbol of the U.S.'s declining prestige. Stabilizing Iraq is the highest priority for the U.S. in restoring its dignity and power... If the U.S. fails to reconstruct and bring peace to Afghanistan and Iraq, not only the Middle East and Southwest Asia but also the entire global community could be destabilized. The international community, including Japan, needs to continue its support for Afghanistan and Iraq with the cooperation with the U.S."

DONOVAN